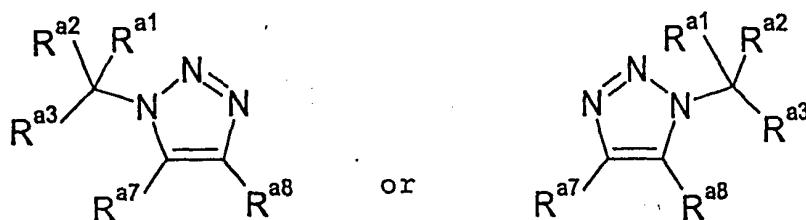


### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Cancel without prejudice claims 11-14 and 16-48.

Please amend the claim as follows:

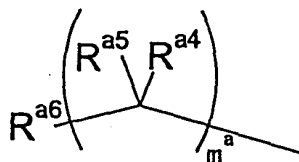
1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a compound of the formula:



wherein

$R^{a1}$  and  $R^{a2}$  are each a hydrogen atom, a substituted hydroxy, a substituted thiol, a substituted amino, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, ~~an optionally substituted heterocyclic group~~ or an acyl;

$R^{a3}$  is a group of the formula:



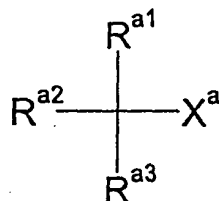
wherein  $R^{a4}$  and  $R^{a5}$  are each a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydroxy, an optionally substituted thiol, an optionally substituted amino, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, ~~an optionally substituted heterocyclic group~~ or an acyl, or  $R^{a4}$  and  $R^{a5}$  in combination form oxo,

$R^{a6}$  is an optionally substituted aromatic group, and

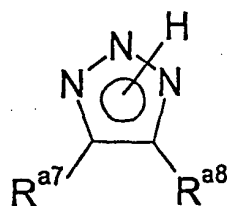
$m$  is an integer of 0 to 10; or

two or three from  $R^{a1}$ ,  $R^{a2}$  and  $R^{a3}$  form an optionally substituted ring, together with the adjacent carbon atom; and

$R^{a7}$  and  $R^{a8}$  are each a hydrogen atom, a halogen, an optionally substituted hydroxy, an optionally substituted thiol, an optionally substituted amino, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon, ~~an optionally substituted heterocyclic group~~ or an acyl, which method comprises reacting a compound of the formula:



wherein  $X^a$  is a leaving group and other symbols are as defined above, or a salt thereof, and compound of the formula:



wherein each symbol is as defined above, or a salt thereof,

- (1) in a secondary or tertiary alcohol in the presence of a base, or
- (2) in the absence of a base.